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ABSTRACT

Self-determination for the Choctaw tribal government and its people was reflected in the progress made in program development. Programs in effect during fiscal year (FY) 1973 covered the full range of economic and social needs of the Choctaw people. Designed to complement the progress achieved during FY 1972, the following four developmental priorities were outlined for tribal attention and action: (1) tribal government reorganization plan--complete implementation along with staff training programs; (2) achievement of Tribal Council community development objectives--concentration on problem areas in manpower, economic, community development, health, and educational needs; (3) industrial and tourism development--attraction of reservation-based industry and formulation of a comprehensive tourism plan; and (4) reservation development-tribal government action plan--a four-year plan for action which included a schedule for acquisition, by contract, of programs and services historically channeled through the Choctaw Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs. This report documented the progress toward self-determination achieved during FY 1973. Information is given on the: Choctaw tribal government reorganization, program development, economic development, and Choctaw-Federal-State-local program coordination. (NQ)

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ACCELERATED PROGRESS THROUGH SELF-DETERMINATION

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHOCTAW SELF-DETERMINATION PROJECT JULY 1, 1972 - OCTOBER 31, 1973

Submitted to the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C.

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JULY, 1973-75

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Pearl River Community

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AGNES YORK
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MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TRIBAL OFFICE BLDG.
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PHILADELPHIA, MISS. 39350
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December 11, 1973

The Honorable Casper Weinberger, Secretary
Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare
3301 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dera Mr. Weinberger:

Self-sufficiency and self-government are goals that the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians have struggled many years to achieve. With these goals now within our reach, we recognize with appreciation the resources made available to us by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and other federal agencies. These resources and continued support have been of great assistance in our strides toward Choctaw self-determination.

Indian-federal relations reached an optomistic high point in 1970 when President Richard Nixon in his message to Congress established as federal policy the direct funding of Indian tribes to deal with their own problems. Since that time, our tribe has undergone extensive reorganization of the administrative component of the tribal government system and has developed plans for an equally sweeping revision of the tribe's approach to the management and operation of federally-funded programs.

This second annual report, "Accelerated Progress Through Self-Determination," covers the range of progress and development we have experienced during the past year. This report also gives indications of problems we continue to face and are working to correct.

The Choctaw Tribal Council joins me in expressing appreciation to your Department, and especially the Office of Native American Programs, for continued dedication to the philosophy of Indian self-determination.

With your continued support, we will be able to move the philosophy of Choctaw self-determination to a way of life. Technical and financial support from the federal government is necessary if progress is to be sustained.

Sincerely,

Phillip Martin
Tribal Chairman

PM/rjt

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PREFACE

Choctaw Self-Government/Self-Determination

When the Federal Indian Policy of Self-Determination was announced in 1970, virtually none of the federally-recognized tribes were prepared for the immensity of the task associated with governmental and program administration.

On the Choctaw reservation, the existing Office of Economic Opportunity Community Action Agency program, established in 1965 by the Tribal Council, was designed to attack immediate poverty-associated problems and not to effect long-term tribal government and reservation development. Programs initiated under OEO's CAA system were hampered by funding restrictions as well as narrow, program-specific objectives both of which impeded progress. Additionally, no structure nor plan had been developed on which to build and utilize past experience. Clearly the diversified, singular purpose projects under CAA were not the ultimate path to self-government and sound program development for the Choctaw people.

Furthermore, the tribal government had no real opportunity for involvement; the Tribal Council met only quarterly unless special circumstances dictated a "called" meeting. New concepts and practices in program service-delivery were at times not adequately communicated to the Council leaving a feeling of non-participation in planning and control.

In light of the Self-Determination Policy announcement and the administrative deficiencies outlined above, the Choctaw Tribal Council, in 1972, initiated a comprehensive reorganization of Choctaw tribal government as well as a rearrangement of the tribal program system. It was evident that these measures were necessary if the tribe was ever to achieve economic independence. The reorganization would serve two major related goals: to reduce poverty through reservation development and to substitute tribal control of reservation policies and programs for

historical federal management.

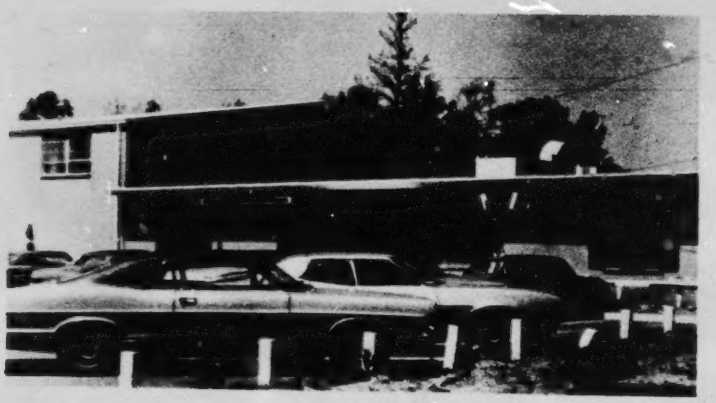
The Aid to Tribal Government Program, administered by the OEO provided the thrust necessary for tribes to begin to control their own destinies; the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians responded to the challenge with their move toward self-determination motivated by a firm belief that a modernized, strengthened tribal government system could meet the responsibilities and challenges of dynamic reservation development.

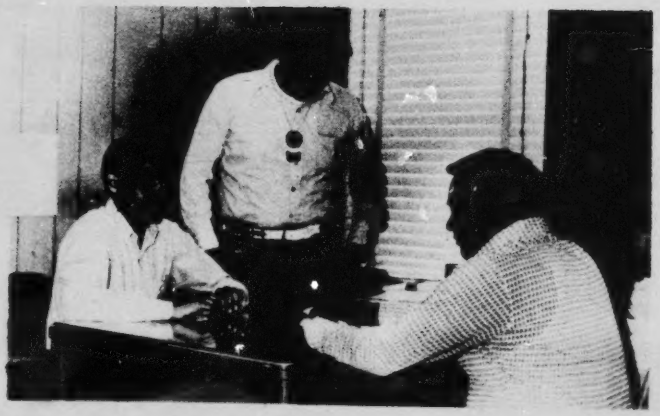
Designed to complement the progress achieved during FY 1972, the following four developmental priorities were outlined for tribal attention and action in FY 1973:

- Tribal government reorganization plan--complete implementation along with staff training programs.
- Achievement of Tribal Council community development objectives--concentration on problem areas in manpower, economic and community development as well as in health and educational systems.
- Industrial and tourism development--attraction of reservation-based industry and formulation of a comprehensive tourism plan.
- Reservation development-tribal government action plan--a four-year plan for action which would include a schedule for acquisition, by contract, of programs and services historically channeled through the Choctaw Agency, BIA.

The following report documents the progress toward self-determination achieved by the Choctaw people in the program's second year, FY 1973.

Choctaw Self-Determination/Self-Government





(From top): Choctaw Tribal Council; Choctaw Tribal Office Building; (From left): Ray C. Thomas, Tribal Personnel Officer; Albert Farve, Community Liaison and Frank Steve, Community Development Program Director.

Structural Change

The Choctaw tribe, as stated earlier, began its move toward self-determination following the federal policy change regarding Indian affairs. The Choctaw Tribal Council, as a governing body, however, was not organized to execute coordinated developmental programs. Because it met on a quarterly basis, involvement in on-going programs was minimal. Technical assistance was directed toward specific programs and failed to offer learning experiences to the Council.

The Council recognized the need for an auxiliary unit which would provide the capability for planning, management assistance, and economic development. The reorganization plan would also serve to reduce poverty through economic development and substitute tribal control for federal management.

During FY 1972, the Tribal Council planned for and implemented significant changes in tribal government and its administration. The reorganization plan was designed to remedy major deficiencies in the initial Choctaw governmental system of FY 1971. Detailed accounts of the six categories of change, "Divisions of Powers and Functions," "Tribal Council Committee Structure," "Establishment of Administrative Chain of Command," "Establishment of Standard Operating Procedures," "Realignment of the Tribal Programs," and "Maintenance of Information," are found in the original report. The major changes made during FY 1972, in the way of review, show that the tribe:

- Developed standard tribal housing purchase and rental procedures.
- Adopted standard leasing procedures for tribal lands.
- Established a permanent position of Central Tribal Finance Officer.
- Established a Central Tribal Finance Office to handle bookkeeping and accounting for all tribal programs.

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- o Adopted standard Tribal Financial Policies and Procedures.
- o Employed a full-time Tribal Personnel Officer.
- o Adopted standard Tribal Personnel Policies.
- o Established a permanent position of Tribal Programs Coordinator/Administrative Assistant to Tribal Chairman.
- o Clarified administrative authority of Tribal Chairman and established clear cut chain of command for all tribal programs.

Concurrent with the above, in FY 1973, the Choctaw tribe:

- o Merged the Choctaw Community Action Agency administration with the Choctaw tribal government administration.
- o Developed a new Tribal Constitution and Bylaws.
- o Completed an organization chart of tribal government.
- o Adopted a Tribal Council Committee Consolidation Plan.
- o Established a full-time Choctaw Fair Development Board.
- o Established a full-time Choctaw Arts and Crafts Development Program.
- o Consolidated all tribal health programs to form Choctaw Department of Community Health Services.
- o Established revised Tribal Election Procedures.
- o Established the Choctaw Board of Education which has authority to contract for BIA education programs.
- o Established Choctaw Utility Commission.

Procedures

The transition necessary to implement the reorganization plan was visualized as having three phases all of which would be completed by FY 1974. The following activity pursuant to these goals occurred in FY 1973; alterations in the original plan as outlined in the First Annual Report as well as some changes not

originally anticipated can be noted by comparing the following array with that in the original report. New expected or actual dates of completion are noted where applicable.

Phase I: Development, adoption, and implementation of reorganized tribal government system (document notation; target and/or proposed or actual dates of execution):

- Review and approval by Tribal Council of minor alterations in the proposed Constitution and Bylaws suggested by Tribal Operations Branch, BIA (Resolution CHO 01-73; July 17, 1972).
- Authorization and scheduling of a tribal referendum by the Secretary of the Interior regarding adoption of the revised Constitution and Bylaws (October 1, 1972; November, 1972).
- Review and approval by 30% of adult Choctaws of the (proposed) new Tribal Constitution and Bylaws by referendum (December 1, 1972; December 12, 1972).
- Revision of (proposed) Tribal Constitution and Bylaws by Tribal Planning Office and Choctaw Legal Services under the direction of the Tribal Chairman (March 1, 1974).
- Approval of (proposed) Revised Tribal Constitution and Bylaws by Tribal Council and Tribal Operations Branch, BIA (April, 1974 and July, 1974, respectively).
- Completion of final draft of Revised Tribal Election Procedures by the Tribal Planning Staff (February 1, 1973; March 15, 1973).
- Review and revision of final draft of Revised Tribal Election Procedures by Tribal Council Committee (February 15, 1973; March 20, 1973).
- Review and adoption of Revised Tribal Election Procedures by Tribal

Council (Tribal Ordinance No. 6: An Ordinance to Establish Election Rules and Procedures of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, February 1, 1973; April 10, 1973).

- o Implementation of Tribal Election Procedures, 1973 Tribal Election (June-July, 1973).
- o Final revision of Tribal Council Committee Consolidation Plan by Tribal Planning Office and Tribal Chairman (October 1, 1972 October 15, 1973).
- o Review, approval, and implementation of new Tribal Committee System by the Tribal Council (October 1, 1973; December 1, 1973).
- o Development of standardized Tribal Membership Procedures by the Tribal Council Committee, assisted by the Tribal Planning Office (February 1, 1973; May 1, 1974).
- o Review and adoption of standardized Tribal Membership Procedures by the Tribal Council (April 1, 1973; August 1, 1974).
- o Review and approval of standardized Tribal Membership Procedures by the Secretary of the Interior (July 1, 1973; October 31, 1974).

Phase II: Development, approval and implementation of basic changes in the tribal administrative structure and operating procedures:

- o Development of tribal programs departmentalization/coordination plan and operating procedures by Tribal program directors and Planning Office, directed by the Tribal Chairman (January 1, 1973; no projected date of completion).[1]

---

[1] The program consolidation plan, as initially conceived, is approximately 30 percent implemented; however, implementation problems and addition analysis have forced re-design of the plan. For this reason complete implementation will be delayed. It is expected that complete and final consolidation may require a considerably long-term plan and commitment. More discussion of the process, problems, and considerations encountered during FY 1973 is found in Section 4, Choctaw Program Development, p. 13 of this report.

- o Approval by affected funding agencies involved prior to departmentalized program structure implementation (December 1, 1973).
- o Implementation of departmentalized program structure (January 1, 1973; February 1, 1974).
- o Development of job-salary classification scale to apply to all tribal employees by Tribal Planning Office (December 1, 1972; July 1, 1974).
- o Development of improved, more detailed job descriptions for all tribal employees (January 1, 1973; July 1, 1974).
- o Approval and adoption of job-salary classification scale by Personnel Policies Review Board; to be attached to Personnel Policies as an Appendix (February 1, 1973; September 1, 1974).
- o Approval and adoption by Personnel Policies Review Board of job descriptions. To be attached to Personnel Policies as an Appendix (March 1, 1973; September 1, 1974).
- o Complete implementation of new job-salary scale and job descriptions throughout all tribal government and programs structure (April 1, 1973; September 1, 1976).

Phase III: Establishment and/or restructuring of quasi-governmental and business entities in accordance with Tribal Government Reorganization Plan:

- o Completion of Financial Management and Organization Plan for Choctaw Fair Enterprise and Choctaw Arts and Crafts Enterprise by Tribal Planning Office (Resolution CHO 23-73; October 10, 1972).
- o Adoption of Financial Management and Organizational Plan for Choctaw Fair Enterprise and Choctaw Arts and Crafts Enterprise by Tribal Council (Resolution CHO 23-73, October 10, 1972).
- o Implementation of Financial Management and Organizational Plan for

Choctaw Fair Enterprise and Choctaw Arts and Crafts Enterprise (January 1, 1973; March 1, 1973).

- o Commitment by Tribal Council to support establishment of Choctaw Board of Education with authority to contract for BIA education programs (Resolution CHO 18-72; August 16, 1972).
- o Election by tribal referendum of members of Choctaw Board of Education (November 21, 1972; December 5, 1972).
- o Adoption of Tribal Ordinance No. 4: An Ordinance to Charter the Choctaw Board of Education (January 15, 1973; April 10, 1973).
- o Establishment of Choctaw Department of Continuing Education to administer all tribal post-secondary programs for adult Choctaws (January 1, 1973; February 1, 1974).
- o Requested federal funding for construction of a Health Facility on the Choctaw reservation (Resolution CHO 89-73; April 11, 1973).

Documents

- o Tribal Ordinance No. 4: An Ordinance to Charter the Choctaw Board of Education (April 10, 1973).
- o Tribal Ordinance No. 5: An Ordinance Authorizing the Legal Services Program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to Represent and Advise in Legal Matters, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Its Officials, and Employees (April 10, 1973).
- o Tribal Ordinance No. 6: An Ordinance to Establish Election Rules and Procedures of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (April 10, 1973).
- o Resolution CHO 01-73: Alteration of Constitution and Bylaws (July 17, 1972).
- o Resolution CHO 06-73: Establishment of Choctaw Board of Education with

authority to contract for BIA education programs (August 16, 1972).

- o Resolution CHO 23-73: Financial Management and Organization Plan for Choctaw Fair Enterprise and Choctaw Arts and Crafts Enterprise (October 10, 1972).
- o Resolution CHO 89-73: A Resolution Requesting the Congress of the United States to Appropriate Monies for the Construction of a Health Facility on the Choctaw reservation (April 11, 1973).

Outcome--FY 1973

In the course of the execution and implementation of the above changes in tribal governmental structure, multiple efforts were at times necessary. For example, in the referendum to review and approve the new Tribal Constitution and Bylaws of December 12, 1972, the Constitution failed to gain adoption by a margin of 15 votes. The new target date for a further revision is March 1, 1974. Regarding the development of a final draft of revised Tribal Election Procedures by the Tribal Planning Staff, eight drafts were developed and revised between March, 1972, and March, 1973. Six drafts of the revised Tribal Election Procedures were reviewed and revised by the Tribal Council Committee between February 15 and March 20, 1973.

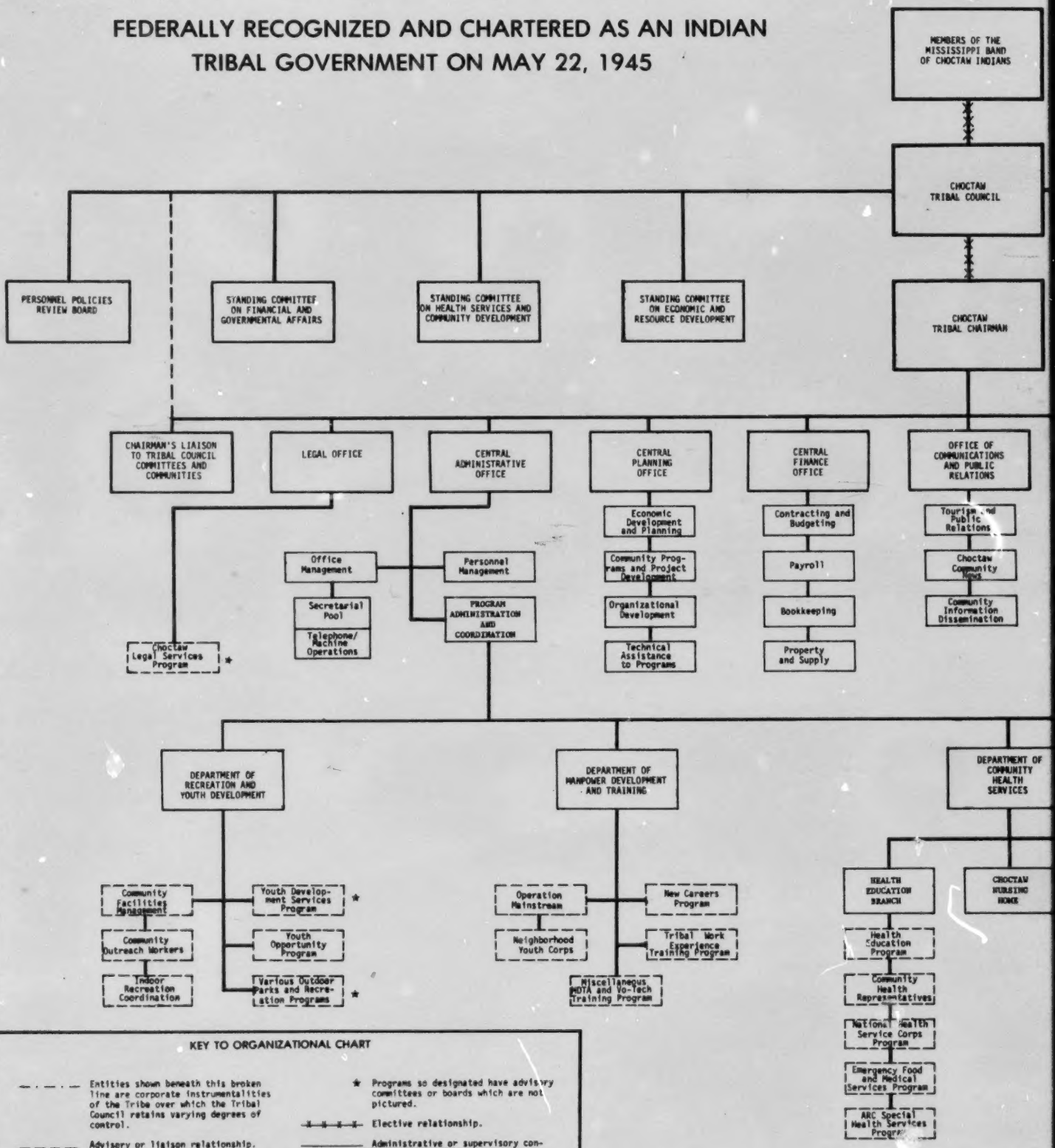
As a result of the adoption of the tribal government reorganization plan, the administrative function of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is stronger, more efficient, and designed to meet ensuing contingencies in a more satisfactory manner than before the reorganization. The organization chart, Figure 1, which reflects the tribal government status at the end of FY 1973 as well as inter-dependencies of the various governmental units, follows.

In light of the changing complexion of tribal program structure, this organization chart cannot be assumed to be in its final state; however, as a result of

anticipated changes in FY 1974, it is expected that revision of the chart should be more or less completed when that period closes.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AND CHARTERED AS AN INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ON MAY 22, 1945


MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL
CHOCTAW TRIBAL CHAIRMAN
PERSONNEL POLICIES REVIEW BOARD
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
CHAIRMAN'S LIAISON TO TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITIES
LEGAL OFFICE
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE
CENTRAL FINANCE OFFICE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Choctaw Legal Services Program ★
Office Management
Secretarial Pool
Telephone/ Machine Operations
Personnel Management
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION
Economic Development and Planning
Community Programs and Project Development
Organizational Development
Technical Assistance to Programs
Contracting and Budgeting
Payroll
Bookkeeping
Property and Supply
Tourism and Public Relations
Choctaw Community News
Community Information Dissemination
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
Community Facilities Management
Community Outreach Workers
Indoor Recreation Coordination
Youth Development Services Program ★
Youth Opportunity Program
Various Outdoor Parks and Recreation Programs ★
Operation Mainstream
Neighborhood Youth Corps
New Careers Program
Tribal Work Experience Training Program
Miscellaneous MDTA and Vo-Tech Training Program
HEALTH EDUCATION BRANCH
CHOCTAW NURSING HOME
Health Education Program
Community Health Representatives
National Health Service Corps Program
Emergency Food and Medical Services Program
ARC Special Health Services Program

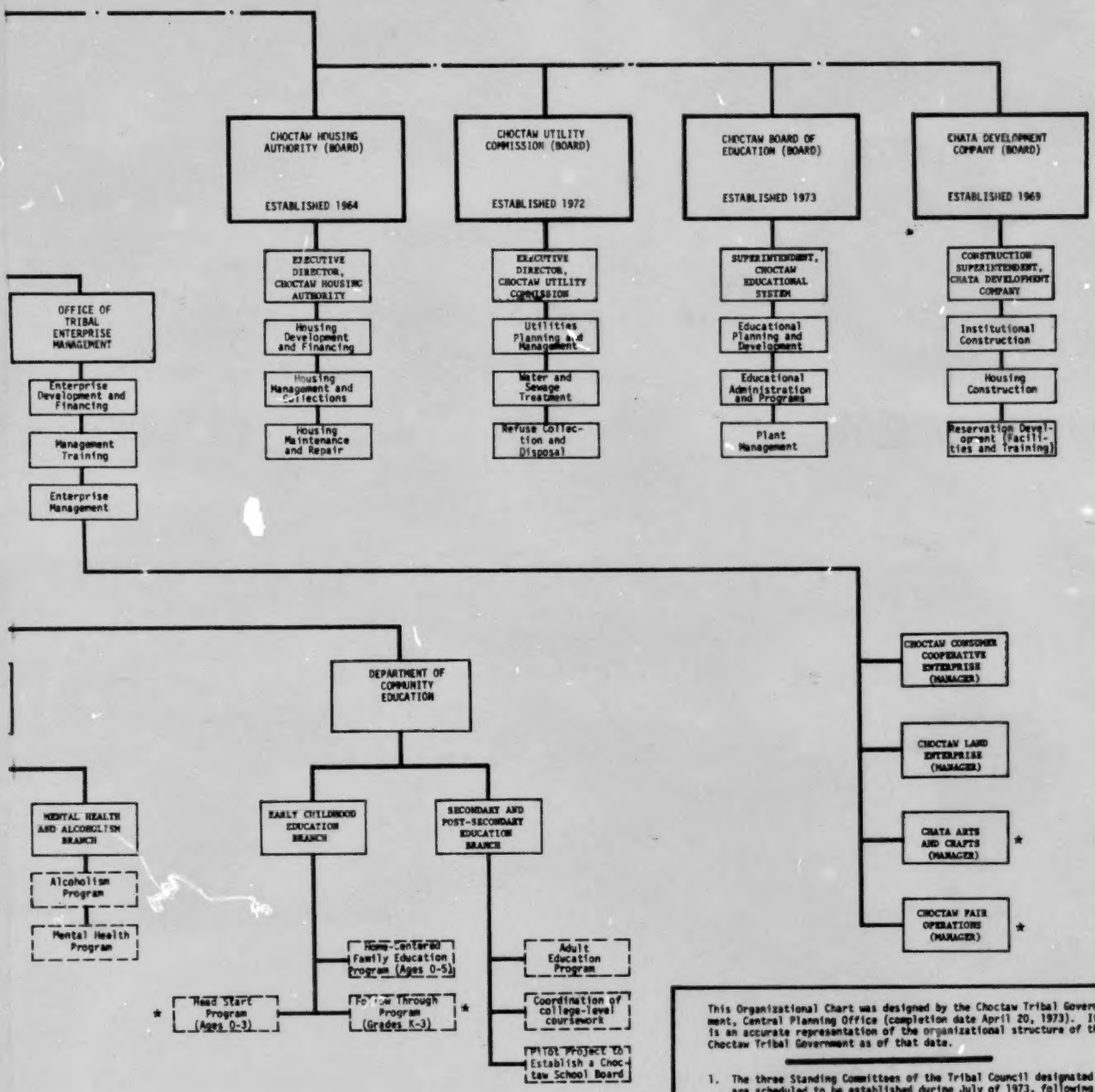
KEY TO ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

- Entities shown beneath this broken line are corporate instrumentalities of the Tribe over which the Tribal Council retains varying degrees of control.
- Advisory or liaison relationship.
- Permanent administrative or governmental unit.
- ★ Programs so designated have advisory committees or boards which are not pictured.
- Elective relationship.
- Administrative or supervisory control relationship.
- Short-run program unit which will phase out upon termination of program funds uless alternate funding is secured.

ACCELERATED PROGRE
SELF-DETERMINA

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE

CHOCTAW TRIBAL GOVERNMENT



This Organizational Chart was designed by the Choctaw Tribal Government, Central Planning Office (completion date April 20, 1973). It is an accurate representation of the organizational structure of the Choctaw Tribal Government as of that date.

1. The three Standing Committees of the Tribal Council designated are scheduled to be established during July of 1973, following consolidation of twelve (12) existing Tribal Council committees.
2. Administrative responsibility for some or all of the programs now administered by the Department of Community Education will be transferred as soon as feasible to the Choctaw Board of Education.
3. Legal Office not established as of this date.

S THROUGH
TION

Structural Change

The Choctaw tribal government seeks to delineate major social and economic problem areas affecting the Choctaw community and to subsequently design program proposals to secure funds which to some extent alleviate such problems. Programs completed prior to and during FY 1973, as well as those planned for the future, generally fall into one or more of these four categories: Human Services, which includes education, health, and drug and alcoholism rehabilitation; Manpower; Community/Economic Development, which includes planning, corrections, and housing; and Cultural. Programs designed for these areas deliver administrative, educative, and supportive services to the Choctaw people. Programs such as those in the above Human Services category which originally resulted in considerable overlap coverage and duplication of services delivery have been combined to increase both their administrative and productive efficiency. Among the major sources of funds are the Departments of: Housing and Urban Development; Interior (BIA and BOR); Labor; Health, Education, and Welfare (OE, OCD, NIAAA, ONAP); Justice (LEAA); and Commerce (EDA). See Table 1 for program/funding agency details. While some of the grants and contracts secured have been for one year in duration, others are in multi-year or re-negotiable packages; the tribe has successfully sustained the latter type as will be shown later in this portion of the report. Long-range and re-negotiated funding reflects the sound planning and management of on-going tribal programs.

As the number of tribal programs proliferated, however, it became evident that the administration and coordination of programs would soon become unmanageable unless a consolidated program plan was implemented. Such a plan would assure better overall management; financial control; and record-keeping. Most importantly,

TABLE 1
TRIBAL PROGRAMS, BY RESOURCE AGENCY AND AMOUNT
FY 1973 - FY 1974

Grants/Contracts

Program	Resource Agency	Amount ($000) FY 1973	FY 1974
Human Services:			
Choctaw Board of Education	BIA	44.2	58.8
Parent Child Development Program	BIA	29.8	29.8
Adult Education	BIA	43.5	43.5
Adult Education	DHEW	81.0	112.0
Follow Through	DHEW	688.9	243.2
Head Start	DHEW	150.0	156.9
Family Education	DHEW	129.0	217.0
Cultural Workshop and Education Program	USET	-0-	-0-
Health Education	IHS	15.8	33.8
Community Health Representatives	IHS	85.9	91.0
Alcoholism	NIAAA	30.0	33.5
Mental Health Program	IHS	21.9	59.0
Drug Abuse	NIMH	--	2.8
Early Childhood Health Program	Appalachian Regional Council	40.7	40.7
National Health Service Corps	DHEW	13.6	49.0
Emergency Food and Medical	OEO	39.0	16.0
Otitis Media	IHS	--	25.0

Grants/Contracts

Program	Resource Agency	Amount ($000) FY 1973	FY 1974
Manpower:			
Emergency Employment Act (EEA)	DOL	95.3	92.8
Tribal Work Experience	BIA	292.5	331.8
Operation Mainstream	DOL	176.4	176.4
Neighborhood Youth Corps (In-School)	DOL	26.4	26.4
Summer Youth Program	DOL	82.6	82.6
New Careers	DOL	251.4	251.4
On-Campus Education	DHEW	--	73.5
Community/Economic Development:			
Tribal Planning Program	OEO	28.1	28.5
Community Development (CAP)	OEO	147.0	147.0
Housing Improvement Project	BIA	74.6	--
Housing Office	BIA	20.0	--
Recreation Program	BOR	136.0	151.0
Youth Development Center	LEAA/BIA	70.7	44.0
Legal Service	CHD	67.9	67.9
Adult Corrections Center	LEAA	159.1	159.1
Economic Development	EDA	20.0	--
701 Planning Grant	HUD/USET, Inc.	--	48.0

Grants/Contracts

Program	Resource Agency	Amount ($000) FY 1973	FY 1974
Cultural:			
Arts and Crafts	Miss. Arts Commission/ Tribe	14.1	14.1
Foxfire	Ideas, Inc./Bicentennial Commission	3.0	1.5
Choctaw Oral History	U. of Florida	--	--
Choctaw Indian Fair	Tribe		
Cultural Workshop	USET		
Choctaw Community News	ONAP	2.4	2.4

Note: -- Indicates program not operative in that year.

Source: Tribal Planning Office with Tribal Finance Office.

it would open the lines of communication among the Tribal Council, tribal staff, and program employees. In addition, the consolidation plan would foster an improved team spirit/effort concurrent with the general theme of self-determination.

As shown in the preceding section of this report under Phase II of the reorganization plan, pages 5 and 6, departmentalization/coordination and operating procedure plans for many tribal programs were partially developed during FY 1973.

The move toward the consolidation of programs entailed negotiations with existing funding agencies aimed toward exacting operational changes in grant/contract specifications so that the tribe could begin to assume more control over its programs and at the same time move toward a position of having more freedom in the application of funds whereby funds could be channeled into the most resourceful mix of services associated with a particular program. Funding could then be designed to include, among other items, overhead costs of administration and financial control. Future grant proposals will incorporate the above stipulations.

Table 1 depicts, by broad category, program, and funding agency, the dollar amounts of grants and/or contracts which the Choctaw tribal government secured for implementation in FY 1973. An additional column shows monies secured for the following fiscal period; a portion of these funds reflect efforts made during FY 1973 to renew or extend existing grants while the remainder depict multi-year or continuing grants.

Programs which were funded and/or in progress in FY 1973 were combined under one of the administrative branches of tribal government or under one of the departmental units for implementation. See the organizational chart, p. 9 for details. Additional changes in program structure are planned; for example,

further consolidation of certain health and educational programs will provide enhanced benefits to the Choctaw community as a whole. These programs are grouped under Human Services in Table 1. Completion of the program consolidation plan is expected in FY 1974.

Documents

- Resolution CHO 06-73: A Resolution to Contract with the BIA to Establish a Certified Choctaw School Board (August 16, 1972).
- Resolution CHO 13-73: A Resolution to Contract with the U.S. Department of Labor to Implement a New Careers Program (August 10, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 23-73: A Resolution to Establish a Tribal Arts and Crafts and Fair Management Plan and to Employ a Full-Time Manager (October 10, 1972).
- Resolution CHO 52-73: A Resolution to Contract with the Mississippi Arts Commission to Secure Training Assistance for the Choctaw Arts and Crafts Program (January 9, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 71-73: A Resolution to Approve an Oral History Project for the Mississippi Choctaws (April 10, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 84-73: A Resolution in Support of the Choctaw Youth Development Center and the Choctaw Community Youth Service System (April 11, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 90-73: A Resolution Requesting Tribal Support for Expanding Follow Through Program as Outlined in National Indian Follow Through Advisory Council (July 10, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 03-74: A Resolution to Contract with the National Endowment for the Arts to Support the Choctaw Arts and Crafts Program (July 10, 1973).

- Resolution CHO 08-74: A Resolution to Contract for DHEW Funding to Operate a Reservation Development Program on the Choctaw Reservation (August 31, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 27-74: A Resolution to Establish a Coordinated Parent-Child Development Program (August 31, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 29-74: A Resolution to Contract with the Mississippi American Revolution Bicentennial Commission to Operate a Bicentennial Program (August 31, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 37-74: A Resolution to Contract with USET, Inc., to Operate a Comprehensive Land Use Planning Project on the Choctaw Reservation (October 20, 1973).

Outcome--FY 1973

Programs in effect during FY 1973 covered the full range of economic and social needs of the Choctaw people. Self-determination for the Choctaw tribal government and its people is reflected in the progress made in program development since the inception of the plan.

A brief description of each of the tribe's key programs which were operative during FY 1973 follows; again, as with Table 1, the programs are grouped in four categories.

Human Services Programs and Projects

- Choctaw Board of Education--Trained Board members to successfully complete development of Board procedures and policies; laid groundwork for future Board contracts with BIA as well as for tribal educational programs and curricula.
- Parent-Child Development Program--Planned for consolidation of all early childhood programs currently operated on the reservation into Department

of Early Childhood Development; explored alternative approaches to provide early childhood development assistance to Choctaws. See pages 27 through 29, this section and Table 2 for more extensive coverage of this program.

- Adult Education--Provided basic remedial education and GED instruction on individual or small group basis in each of six communities; provided basic instruction in consumer and driver's education, voting rights and tribal affairs; 200 participants and 14 teachers. See page 27, this section, and Table 2 for detailed information.
- Follow Through--Worked with BIA teachers in Choctaw school system to develop in Choctaw children, grades K-3, educational and social skills necessary to become productive citizens, encouraged parental participation in early educational and health care needs; 415 participants.
- Head Start--Provided children, ages 3-4, nutritional, health, educational social development services in unstructured classroom settings; encouraged parental participation in early educational needs; 127 participants.
- Family Education--Trained selected Choctaw parents in six of the reservation communities to teach other parents to develop perceptual awareness in children, ages 0-3, in their own homes, eighteen parent trainers, 182 families, and 245 children.
- USET Workshop--See Cultural Programs and Projects.
- Health Education--Merged with Community Health Representative Program; now Division of Community Health Organization and Development in Department of Community Health Services; assisted Choctaws in the diagnosis of local health and community problems in organizing to solve these problems; responsible for training four Choctaw health education trainees (New Careers); one professional.

- Community Health Representatives--Merged with Health Education Program; see above; eight outreach workers.
- Alcoholism--Merged with Mental Health Program; now Division of Community Mental Health and Alcoholism in Department of Community Health Services; provided counseling thereby reducing problems of mental health, emotional disturbance, alcoholism and alcohol abuse among Choctaws; three trained para-professionals. A HEW-funded demonstration project designed to establish a prevention-information-education-rehabilitation program for all tribal CHR Outreach Workers and concerned individuals.
- Mental Health--Merged with Alcoholism Program; see above; two paraprofessionals, one professional.
- Early Childhood Health--Provided health related early development services to Choctaw youngsters in Kemper, Winston, and Noxubee Counties.
- National Health Service Corps--Worked in Choctaw BIA schools in the area of health and public health nursing education.
- Nursing Home--Provided custodial care to aged Choctaws incapable of caring for themselves or living alone.
- Emergency Food and Medical Services--Assisted eligible Choctaws to receive food stamps and encouraged the purchase of nutritional foods with stamps; a monthly average of 20 applicants; supplemented overhead expenses of Choctaw Cooperative Grocery Store.

Manpower Programs and Projects

- Emergency Employment Act--Provided training and job placement counseling to enrollees; public service employment for Choctaw adults in tribal government and community service programs.
- Tribal Work Experience Training Program (TWETP)--Provided heads of house-

holds, unemployed but able-bodied, with work-training experience; provided job and alcohol counseling, adult education, and training for up-grading skills for better jobs; 95 unemployed as alternatives to welfare.

- Operation Mainstream--Provided heads of households, unemployable but able-bodied, an opportunity to earn money and to train and work in community improvement jobs; provided job counseling, adult education, and training assistance designed to up-grade skills for better job opportunities; 52 trainees.
- Neighborhood Youth Corps (In-School)--Provided employment experience and opportunity to earn money to low-income students, aged 16-21 years, who might otherwise drop out of school; provided career counseling and educational assistance; 40 in-school participants.
- BIA/Department of Labor Summer Youth Employment--Provided work opportunities for students; PEP and YOP programs; $1.60/hour for 168 hours; 71 participants.
- New Careers Job Development and Training--Provided two-year on-the-job training designed to incorporate work experience with college coursework completion; students worked and trained in BIA, USPHS or tribal programs; 30 enrollees. Pages 25 and 26, in this section of the report, have further details. Also see Table 2.
- Teacher Training--On-Campus--Planned for placement of ten para-professionals in a university setting to establish residency and complete coursework, both of which are required for graduation, at baccalaureate level beginning July, 1973; improvement of professional level of local Choctaw teachers.

Community/Economic Development Programs and Projects

- Tribal Planning--Aid to Tribal Government--Developed comprehensive plans and procedures to increase Choctaw tribal government effectiveness and tribal program delivery efficiency, to secure funds to complete manpower, economic, community, educational, and health needs projects through industrial and program development, and to develop plans for studies of long-range Choctaw reservation development; supported Choctaw tribal government operations.
- Community Development--Assisted in employment and training opportunities for Choctaw people; operation of youth recreation program; supported Boy Scout Program; coordinated operation of Conehatta and Pearl River Communities' Facilities Buildings; supported publication and distribution of Choctaw Community News and other public relations materials.
- Conehatta Facility Building--Sub-contracted with Chata Development Company and completed a multi-purpose Neighborhood Facility Building with funds contracted to tribe by EDA; value, $259,915.
- Housing Improvement--Sub-contracted with Chata Development Company to repair and improve tribal housing with funds contracted to tribe by BIA; 200 new brick homes placed 45 percent of population in adequate housing.
- Housing Development Specialist--Obtained services of housing professional to develop additional housing for Choctaw people.
- Recreation--Constructed eight combination softball/baseball parks (lighted and unlighted) with metal backstops in six Choctaw communities.
- Youth Development Center--Provided youth rehabilitation and counseling to Choctaw children under court order who were otherwise destined for commitment to state correctional institutions; provided a live-in house-parent-teacher-counselor for Youth Center clients; operated an effective delin-

quency prevention program for Choctaw youths; eight paraprofessionals, one professional.

- Choctaw Legal Services--Provided effective legal advice and representation for residents of Choctaw communities; worked to increase level of legal and consumer knowledge among Choctaw people; worked to secure, through law reform and effective court action, constitutional and statutory rights now denied Choctaw people in violation of state, federal, and constitutional law. See Section 4, pages 50 to 54 for additional details.
- Adult Corrections Center--Sub-contracted with Chata Development Company to construct a combination jail, courtroom, work-release dormitory, and police station for Choctaw reservation with funds contracted to tribe by LEAA; $172,000.
- Choctaw Land Enterprise--Operated Choctaw Land Enterprise to sell hogs, lease agricultural land, obtain ASCS farm payments; disposed of heavy equipment through auction; realized $106,000 from sale.
- Economic Development Specialist--Obtained services of economic professional to develop tribal economy; worked to attract industry for industrial park.

Cultural Programs and Projects

- Arts and Crafts--Established an effective Choctaw crafts skill preservation, development, training, production, and sales program; identified Choctaw craftsmen; increased the sale of Choctaw crafts in state and regional exhibitions.
- Choctaw Weaving Enterprise--Supported the production and sale of Choctaw weaving products.

- Foxfire--Initiated Choctaw Central High School student publication, Nanih Waiya, which will provide a learning experience for young Choctaws as well as an exposition vehicle for Choctaw culture.
- Choctaw Oral History--Planned program to interview Choctaw adults which will preserve Choctaw history and culture; in cooperation with University of Florida Museum in its effort to capture the history of Southeastern Indian tribes.
- Choctaw Fair--Supported planning, promotion, and operation of Annual Choctaw Indian Fair; FY 1973 Fair planned and managed for the first time by Tribal Crafts and Fair Enterprise Manager.
- USET Cultural Workshop--Conducted a three-week workshop on Choctaw language and culture prior to start of one-semester coursework period; an evaluation workshop is planned for FY 1974; twelve participants.
- Choctaw Community News--Published and distributed a monthly tribal newspaper for all Choctaw residents; contained local and pertinent national news; circulation: 2,000 local; an additional 1,000 by mail.

Program Highlights

Evidence of the movement toward self-determination was particularly noteworthy in the area of educational achievement during FY 1973. The following three program descriptions exemplify changes in both attitudes and approaches to education for Choctaw people. This is not to say that the remaining programs outlined in this report have not had an impact on the Choctaw people, but rather that these three deal with basic educational needs at various levels which when perpetuated will help provide the trained personnel necessary to undergird future program development.

New Careers

The problem of sub-standard economic achievement has historically been a way of life for the Mississippi Choctaw; however, the premise of self-determination deals in part with the erradication of poverty among the Choctaw people. One effective approach toward this end began in FY 1973 with the New Careers Program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. The continuing problem of lack of Choctaws qualified to step into program directorships and other managerial positions magnified the need to educate and bring Choctaws up to professional levels in order to assume these important positions. New Careers strives toward this goal through a work-study program in which each enrollee pursues his own elected course of study and concurrently acquires work experience which ideally is within his career interest area. For example, a young woman who wishes to become a registered nurse may take basic college credits offered on the reservation which are designed to enable her to transfer to an institution of higher learning to complete her coursework and residency requirements. At the same time she may work as a nurses aide trainee where professionals in health services train her in clinical applications of her chosen vocation.

Among the subject-interest areas of the 30 New Careers trainees enrolled in FY 1973 were education, business administration and management, and nursing-medical technology. Work-area assignments for these students included:

Nursing
Laboratory Work
Property and Supply Control
Employment Assistance
Plant Management
Administration
Social Work
Program Development
Law Enforcement
Probation and Parole
Health Education

As a result of the work portion of this program, tribal members who were recipients of the above services benefited as well as those who were enrolled in the program.

Adult Basic Education

Historically, the adult segment of the Choctaw community had been largely deprived of the opportunity for a secondary education. The lack of a local high school during a critical point in their career development played a large part in this deficiency. As of 1972, the average adult Choctaw possessed a third grade education. Minimal educational achievement such as this precludes effective economic achievement; therefore, the need to initiate an adult basic education program was clear.

During FY 1973, the ABE program supplied a qualified teacher to each of the Choctaw communities where small learning groups were offered the opportunity to explore and acquire basic education skills. A working knowledge of basic English, mathematics, and spelling and/or GED certification for enrollees was the goal of these instructors. Consumer and drivers education as well as tribal affairs information were also offered.

While there were approximately 200 persons enrolled in the program in FY 1973, 20 received GED certificates. Among other tangible benefits which accrued to the program were the opportunities for teacher-aide personnel to develop and test their skills; the visibly increased interest in acquisition of additional educational skills through further education by participants was equally rewarding.

Parent-Child Development--Head Start

Natural development in an atmosphere in which the Choctaw child can learn to respond and interact with his environment is a major goal of the Parent-Child Development Program (PCDP). One of two pilot programs in the nation, PCDP is funded for FY 1974 by the BIA in conjunction with its regular school programs. The intent is to expand the program, if successful, to include

other federal Indian tribes and to maintain it as an integral part of the regular school system. Plans include provision of education, health, and social services for children ages 0-4; the target group is to be composed of children whose parents work either full- or half-time and who, because of economic restrictions, cannot afford outside care for their offspring. This program will be fully integrated with the on-going Head Start project, sharing staff, facilities, etc.

Under the Day Care system, children will be cared for for approximately 11 hours, 5 days a week; for those 0 to 18 months old, Family Day Care homes will provide accommodations for from 3 to 5 children while the Centers will each serve an estimated 12 youngsters, 18 months to 4 years of age. Day Care Homes will be provided with all necessary equipment and supplies while the Centers are planned to be melded with existing Head Start facilities. The latter arrangement appears credible in light of current sentiment which is expected to phase out or cut back Head Start programs. It is expected that all PCDP units will offer an enriched, safe environment for the socialization of children who might otherwise be deprived of this valuable developmental sequence. In addition, the 3-4 year old group, along with Head Start enrollees, will be introduced to color, shape, and letter recognition activities. The major thrust throughout the program will be natural development in a basically unstructured setting which emulates the ideal home situation.

In the area of health care and social services, the emphasis will be on family participation. As a prerequisite to enrollment in the program, for example, the parent must see that his child has a physical examination and that all his immunizations are up to date. In addition, parents will be responsible for transporting the child to and from the Day Care facility. As

a distinct contrast to previous counseling services, the PCDP staff should be able to provide more comprehensive assistance to children and their families when referrals to other agencies (IHS, BIA Social Services, and the tribe) are necessary, in light of their increased awareness of whole family unit behavior rather than knowledge of the isolated child.

Plans include a Board of Directors composed of one member elected from each community, two appointed by the Choctaw School Board and two by the Tribal Chairman. Because the essence of the program is family and community based, this Board will provide vital feedback to the program staff with regard to the operational aspects of their activities as well as an alert system for potential pitfalls.

Participation for the pilot year is expected to include an estimated 116 children representing 94 families; 9 Day Care Homes and 6 Centers, shared with Head Start, will be established.

As with the previously highlighted tribal programs, the number of participants, by community, as well as other projected details, are found in Table 2, which follows.

TABLE 2

SELECTED DATA, HIGHLIGHTED CHOCTAW TRIBAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, FY 1973

Community	New Careers		Adult Basic Education			Parent-Child Development Program			
	Enrollees	Total Cummulative Hours Completed	Enrollees[1]	GED Certification	Teachers[2]	Children	Families	Day Care Centers/Homes	
						(Projected)			
Bogue Chitto	4	108	49	5	6	16	22	1	1
Conehatta	4	120	33	2	4	24	20	1	1
Pearl River	15	520	60	13	11	32	25	1	3
Red Water	1	70	28	0	3	15	12	1	1
Standing Pine	2	60	18	1	3	13	11	1[3]	2
Tucker	4	141	14	2	3	16	14	1	1
Total	30	1,019	202	23	14	116	94	6	9

[1]Classes vary in size over time. Figures represent on-balance enrollment.

[2]A total of 14 teachers; some serve more than one community.

[3]Head Start unit; jointly used.

Source: Program directors for respective programs.

CHOCTAW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Structural Change

Positive economic change requires methodical, progressive management of available resources directed toward improving the life-style and environment of an area's inhabitants. Economic change for Mississippi's Choctaws was no exception; though, economic improvement was not so dramatic as that noted in program-services improvement in FY 1973. Opportunities for employment in areas other than agriculture as well as improved housing conditions were among notable accomplishments of Tribal Council planning in FY 1973. The tribal goal of self-determination continued to be the focal point of economic activity and development.

With regard to structural change in economic programs in FY 1973, the Tribal Council:

- o Established a full-time Choctaw Fair Development Board.
- o Established a full-time Choctaw Arts and Crafts Development Program.
- o Developed standard Tribal Housing Purchase and Rental Procedures.
- o Established Choctaw Utility Commission.
- o Employed an Economic Development Specialist.
- o Initiated HUD-701 Land Use Planning Project.

Documents

- o Tribal Ordinance No. 3: An Ordinance Authorizing the Choctaw Utility Commission (August 10, 1973).
- o Tribal Ordinance No. 7: An Ordinance to Restrict the Disposal of Refuse and Garbage and to Prohibit Certain Accumulations of Refuse and Weeds on the Choctaw Reservation (April 10, 1973).
- o Resolution CHO 23-73: A Resolution to Establish a Tribal Arts and Crafts

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and Fair Management Plan and to Employ a Full-Time Manager (October 10, 1972).

- Resolution CHO 26-73: A Resolution Supporting the Construction of a New School Building in the Tucker Indian Community (October 11, 1972).
- Resolution CHO 89-73: A Resolution Requesting the Congress of the United States to Appropriate Monies for the Construction of a Health Facility on the Choctaw Reservation (April 11, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 37-74: A Resolution to Contract with USET, Inc., to Operate a Comprehensive Land Use Planning Project on the Choctaw Reservation (October 20, 1973).

Outcome--FY 1973

The comprehensive reorganization of tribal government, along with the development of defined operating procedures, lent impetus to economic development in FY 1973. The Council's ability to clarify goals and to subsequently move toward them has aided the tribe immensely. The desire to improve living standards and to achieve a relative state of independence from historical federal control were a vital factor in FY 1973 economic achievements. Individuals benefited from the increase in job opportunities and from the additional services available to them. The establishment of an industry remained a prime concern for the Council and an active search for an occupant for the Industrial Park was waged. Promotion was expected to be aided by an informative brochure which describes the Park and its available amenities.

A land use planning project funded by the HUD 701 Program, as authorized by Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, and administered by USET, Inc., was initiated following Tribal Council Resolution CHO 37-74. A contract was negotiated with Wilbur Smith & Associates, Columbia, South Carolina, to complete the study

within the 15-month period allocated. A member of the tribal planning staff was appointed coordinator of the project. The survey will define existing land resources and delineate alternative future uses of reservation properties. A resulting comprehensive report will serve as a tool for tribal officials to use in all phases of future reservation development. A companion study regarding the feasibility of tourism development will also be completed by these consultants.

As a result of the structural changes in tribal business affairs, economic accomplishments have accrued; the following passages reflect economic change for the Choctaw tribe in FY 1973:

- Choctaw Fair Development Board--Moved toward more efficient use of resources and sound planning practices, greater public recognition of Choctaw Indian Fair concurrent with new public awareness of tribal success.
- Choctaw Arts and Crafts Development--Increased production through instructional programs for Choctaw women and children; enterprise development enlarged market potential for Indian goods.
- Central Tribal Finance Office--Enhanced economic achievement through coordinated, sound financial management of tribal business affairs.
- Choctaw Utility Commission--Provided improved health and sanitation conditions through refuse and litter collection with trucks on loan from BIA and refuse containers provided by the USPHS; see page for additional discussion.
- Choctaw Industrial Development--Promoted location of industrial concerns in the Choctaw Industrial Park; surveyed local industries as to employment opportunities for Choctaw workers.

- o HUD 701 Planning Project--Provided tribal government with a comprehensive survey of land-use, economic, and social resources and a program of alternative development approaches.

The following represent progress reports for programs and/or projects initiated prior to, but still operative in, FY 1973:

- o Chata Development Company.
  - a. Constructed, by subcontract, Choctaw Industrial Park ($606,000 EDA grant); see p. 36 for additional details.
  - b. Constructed Conehatta Community Facilities Building ($259,915 EDA contract); employed 12 Indians, 3 non-Indians.
  - c. Constructed 60 residential units ($1,027,489 HUD contract); employed 21 Indians; 8 non-Indians.
  - d. Constructed 60 residential units ($71,953 BIA funded HIP project contract); employed 12 Indians, 5 non-Indians.
  - e. Constructed miscellaneous residential and commercial units ($40,000 EDA contract); employed 7 Indians, 3 non-Indians.
  - f. Partially completed tribal Adult Corrections Center ($152,121 LEAA contract); employed 12 Indians, 5 non-Indians.
  - g. Total of above construction projects completed by Chata in FY 1973 is $2,157,478.

Economic Highlights

The following reports explore in greater detail two areas of significant economic change for the tribal self-determination plan. Both areas provide basic foundations on which future development will rest; in addition, they reflect the results of sound economic and community planning. The establishment of the Utility Commission is another step toward the contracting of all programs historically

administered by the BIA while the Industrial Park is an example of business development activity on the Choctaw reservation.

Choctaw Industrial Park

The Choctaw Industrial Park, shown earlier as a completed project of Chata Development Company in FY 1973, constitutes another step toward self-determination by the Mississippi Band of Choctaws. The Park is located in the Pearl River Community on the Choctaw reservation, seven miles west of Philadelphia on Mississippi Highway 16. Federal and state assistance available to prospective industries locating in the Park includes BIA payment of fifty per cent of on-the-job training costs of training Choctaw workers for employment; SBA loans through Chata Development Company for construction and financing of equipment and facilities; and EDA loans, unlimited in amount with the exception that total loans may not exceed 65 percent of total investment in land, buildings, and equipment. Sites have no rent or property taxes accrued.

The Park provides ample space, easy access to major transportation systems, and land free from encumbrances and easements to potential occupants. Ample water and sewage disposal systems as well as TVA power are available. Four state highways--15, 16, 19, and 21--intersect approximately seven miles from the Park; on I-20, just to the south, Meridian is 48 miles to the east and Jackson. 75 miles to the west of the facility. Motor freight services are available locally while nearby Meridian offers connecting air freight services. The available labor force includes approximately 1,000 Choctaw men and women who live in or can readily commute to the Industrial Park, while Neshoba County, in which the Park is located, has a labor force of approximately 7,000 workers. Five existing industries employing approximately 2,200 workers are located within a ten-mile radius of the park. Moderate climate linked with extensive

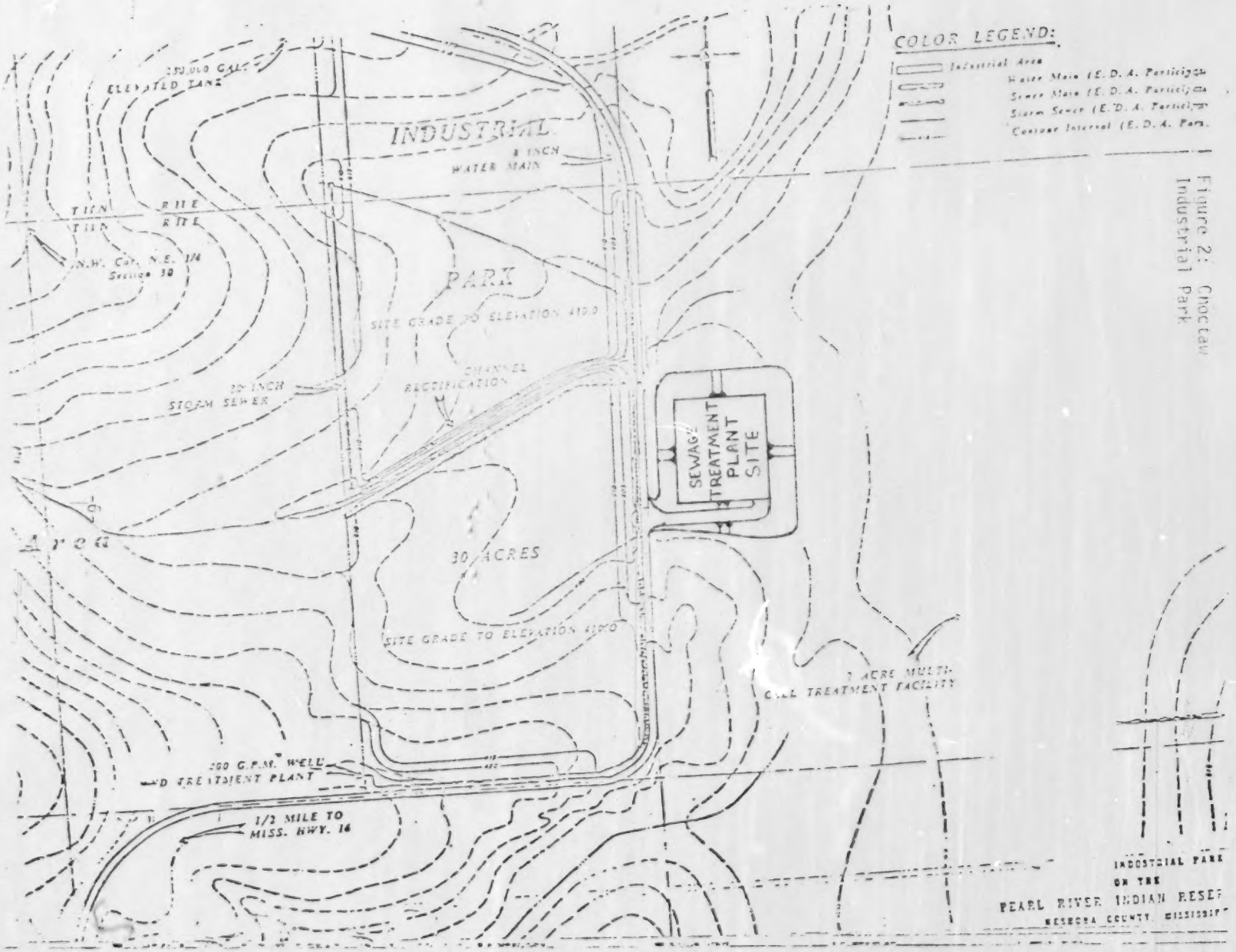
COLOR LEGEND:
Industrial Area
Water Main (E. D. A. Participation)
Sewer Main (E. D. A. Participation)
Storm Sewer (E. D. A. Participation)
Contour Interval (E. D. A. Participation)
INDUSTRIAL
8 INCH WATER MAIN
PARK
SITE GRADE TO ELEVATION 419.0
CHANNEL RECTIFICATION
30 INCH STORM SEWER
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SITE
30 ACRES
SITE GRADE TO ELEVATION 419.0
3 ACRE MULTI-CELL TREATMENT FACILITY
200 G.P.M. WELL AND TREATMENT PLANT
1/2 MILE TO MISS. HWY. 16
ELEVATED TANK
T11N R11E
T11N R11E
N.W. Cor. N.E. 1/4 Section 30
INDUSTRIAL PARK ON THE PEARL RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION
NESHOBA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Figure 2: Choctaw Industrial Park

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timber reserves with future plans for a proposed 12,000 acre reservoir offer additional benefits to prospective occupants of the Park.

Aside from the physical and aesthetic benefits which will accrue from the development of an industrial park on the Choctaw reservation, the potential for real economic growth for the tribe appears to be the Park's greatest asset. Self-determination requires that at some point in time, the tribe be prepared to assume complete financial responsibility for tribal affairs. Without a well-planned economic base from which to operate, especially in light of recent dwindling opportunities and motivation necessary for agricultural achievement for the Choctaw people, the tribe cannot fulfill their long-range objectives. Rising from historically low income levels, Choctaw leaders are ready to prepare themselves to assume the additional responsibilities which come with an improved economic standard. Figure 2 shows the physical layout of the Industrial Park.

Choctaw Utility Commission

In order to provide an environment for improved health standards for reservation inhabitants, the Tribal Council chartered the Choctaw Utility Commission as a public corporation under Tribal Ordinance No. 3 on August 10, 1972. Stated purposes of the Commission include, among others, to remedy unsafe and unsanitary conditions on the reservation to alleviate the acute shortage of sanitary and utilities service; to provide employment opportunities; to promote health and sanitation programs; to promote Indian participation in sanitation programs; and to cooperate with the Choctaw Health Advisory Board, the USPHS, and other official health and sanitation agencies. The Board of Directors is composed of five members, appointed by the Tribal Council, who serve four-year, staggered terms.

The period January through April, 1973, served as a multi-staged trial period in which selected Choctaw communities had solid waste collection first at no charge to them and subsequently for a nominal fee. The collection service was ultimately extended to all communities; there were approximately 100 families enrolled by the end of the fiscal year. The Choctaw Agency, BIA, cooperated by providing trucks to the Commission on a lease-permit basis; the Public Health Service provided all Indian homes with appropriate covered containers. Further, negotiations with the BIA resulted in the Utility Commission securing a contract to service all BIA schools in the Choctaw communities.

Because the Choctaw tribal government is not permanently committed to continue administering the services currently offered by the Utility Commission, an alternative solution which is under consideration would be to establish a Department of Public Works through a contract with the Office of Environmental Health, U.S. Public Health Service.

Subsequent to the establishment of the Utility Commission, on April 10, 1973, Tribal Ordinance No. 7: An Ordinance to Restrict the Disposal of Refuse and Garbage and to Prohibit Certain Accumulations of Refuse and Weeds on the Choctaw reservation was passed. This ordinance was also designed to promote and protect the health and general welfare of the Choctaw community and its members; its primary features deal with litter and refuse collection.

Long-range goals for the Utility Commission include subscription to the waste collection program by all Choctaw families and beautification of reservation grounds for sanitary and aesthetic purposes.

Federal, State and Local Program Coordination

(Clockwise from top): Gov. Bill Waller proclaims "Choctaw Indian Fair Week"; Tribal Chairman Phillip Martin and Emory Johnson, head of the Indian Health Service at a health planning conference held at the Choctaw Reservation; Training in Otitis Media Testing Techniques at the University of Miss. Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi; Public Health Service dentist; State-wide tourism planning session held at the Governor's Office; Continuing education planning meeting at Mississippi State University.

Impact/On-Going Dilemmas

Choctaw-Federal Government

On the national level, historical barriers in federal program administration and funding restrictions began to give way to observable progress for the Choctaw people in FY 1973. As a result of modifications in original self-determination program objectives reached through negotiations with pertinent federal agencies, EDA, LEAA, OEO, HEW, HUD, BIA, DOL, the tribe was able to address available grant/contract resources to the most pressing program area deficiencies; to use in-kind contributions in lieu of required matching funds in some cases; and to receive, under consortium funding, monies that were free to be applied as needed to reservation-wide problem areas rather than to independent specific programs.

In FY 1973, the Indian self-determination grant from OEO produced the nucleus of an administrative-governmental-program service delivery system which allowed the tribe to make giant strides toward goal objectives. Coordinated effort between the Tribal Chairman, the Council, and the Choctaw community began to produce effective results. Plans were made and implemented for the reorganization of tribal government; programs were consolidated into more effective service-delivery units; and tribal contracts, once controlled exclusively by federal managers, were obtained for tribal economic and social development.

Contractors of funds from federal agencies who are non-profit institutions are eligible to include, in all budget proposals, indirect costs which are computed on a base rate derived from total direct costs less items of equipment, contracted services, and alterations and renovations. The current

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approved rate for the Mississippi Band is 12%. Fringe benefits, applicable to direct salaries and wages are also included and are treated as direct costs.

At the reservation level, improvements directed toward self-government also occurred, though to an overall lesser degree than those associated with federal programs on a national scale. The most significant achievement in FY 1973 was the appointment of a native Mississippi Choctaw as Acting BIA Superintendent following the removal of the former, ineffective superintendent, an action which resulted from Tribal Council Resolution CHO 141-72, and its accompanying evidence. Subsequently, cooperation between the Agency and the Tribe was noticeably improved. Continued coordination of program- and service-delivery efforts between both groups will be especially vital in the near future when many formerly Agency-operated programs are expected to be contracted by the tribe.

While the major role of the BIA has been to provide support for reservation-initiated projects and programs or for those required by the tribe, the effectiveness of this support has been diminished by the cumbersome BIA chain of command and its inability to effect timely and responsive action to tribal requests for aid.

In an effort to circumvent these obstacles and initiate a coordinated program effort as envisioned under the Choctaw self-government plan, the tribe began to contract for BIA programs.

The following programs have been contracted from the BIA. The initial contract year is shown in parenthesis; negotiations were completed in the preceding year in each respective case:

o Community Health Representatives--environmental health liaisons

between existing health services and communities; provide transportation and technical assistance for health clinics, etc. (FY 1972).

- o Housing Improvement Program--renovation of existing homes (FY 1972).
- o TWEPT--general assistance program (FY 1972).
- o Youth Opportunity Program--summer youth employment (FY 1972).
- o Adult Basic Education--post 8th grade through GED level instruction in reading, spelling, and mathematics skills (FY 1973).
- o Adult Corrections Center--construction by Chata Development, staffed by BIA via a lease agreement with the tribe (FY 1973).
- o Board of Education--development of board contracting capability and comprehensive plan to contract BIA school system in FY 1975; begin negotiations for school contracting for FY 1974 (FY 1973).
- o Mental Health--counseling of families and individuals (FY 1973).
- o Housing--development, planning, and management assistance (to Housing Authority)(FY 1974).
- o Otitis Media--screening for ear disorders (FY 1974).
- o Parent-Child Development--design and implementation of Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Plan (FY 1974).

In addition to those programs or services already contracted for, others will be negotiated for in FY 1974 and implemented in FY 1975. This group is expected to include social services, employment assistance, higher education, land operations, reservation programs.

New patterns of cooperation between the tribe and BIA officials were noted in the contracted program areas listed above. Under its Emergency Employment Act guidelines, the DOL required that qualified (Masters degree holders) guidance counselors be available to screen TWEPT and YOP appli-

cants for employability and to assist them in planning and setting career goals. The BIA extended the services of two professionals; one each in Social Services and Employment Assistance to fill this need along with their regular counseling duties.

Furthermore, both Adult Basic Education and New Careers personnel utilized BIA facilities for evening classes; BIA buses were available as well. Approximately 200 ABE and 30 New Careers enrollees benefited. The BIA and the IHS both agreed to employ New Careers students; this show of cooperation was considered a major breakthrough in Agency/tribal relations.

Participation in educational planning, in anticipation of future contracting for the BIA school system, by the newly-appointed Choctaw School Board was limited to occasional advisory decisions in FY 1973; however, School Board involvement is expected to accelerate with completion of its plans to assume responsibility for the school system. Choctaws employed in BIA schools included the Principal of Choctaw Central High School, a guidance counselor, and five teachers.

While no response was received to the Tribal Council Resolution CHO 48-72, which requested that a $300,000 BIA contribution for self-determination be included in the FY 1974 program planning memorandum, the Resolution was regarded as a precedence-setting action in anticipation of receipt of these funds at a future date.

The tribe received little technical assistance from the BIA Southeast Agencies office; however, that office did show its support of tribal contracts for BIA services. The area office concept is expected to provide more propitious service to tribes under its coverage. As well as receiving advice and assistance from this office, the Mississippi Band should benefit

from the Agencies' proximity to BIA Commissioner, et al.

The Choctaw Service Unit, Indian Health Service, provided not only in- and out-patient health care for the Choctaw community but also a supportive environment for training and employing many Choctaw workers in FY 1973. The Director of the Service Unit, a Choctaw, demonstrated his support of tribal programs in various ways; for example, his staff assistant attended many pertinent planning meetings which resulted in the formulation of a comprehensive training program for tribal staff members, in particular for Head Start and Community Health Representatives-Outreach Workers. Indian Health Service doctors participated in the design of a curriculum for Community Health Care nurses and subsequently helped train them. In addition, 15 New Careers trainees were employed by the IHS in health related positions. The cooperation between the IHS staff and the Tribal Council and staff was clearly responsible for the improvement in the quality of health care on the reservation.

In addition, IHS made a significant contribution to Indian patient welfare through its improvement of the delivery room and nursery by painting; utilizing additional space; and generally modernizing, to the extent they could in such basically inadequate facilities as exist in the present hospital. Furthermore, they recognized the value of educational improvement for hospital employees; for example, one woman who was formerly employed as a kitchen worker was promoted to a supervisory position upon completion of her GED certification studies. An Indian Health Service sanitary engineer was engaged in the preparation of utility maps showing underground facilities; the environmental health system is more streamlined as a result of his work. In addition to the above improvements, land-use engineering

tasks were underway in that office.

The continuing problem of emergency transportation for patients was solved when it was determined to be more economical to contract with a local ambulance service than for the tribal government to provide this service especially when the question of manpower-employment as required round-the-clock, etc., was considered.

As with the BIA, the IHS was asked to contribute $200,000 to the Choctaw self-determination program. While no monies were received in FY 1973, the Tribal Council believes that the precedence has been established as a result of the initial request.

There is no question that the IHS is firmly committed to the Choctaw community.

Construction of a new comprehensive health facility was assured in mid-1973 after the U.S. House Appropriates Committee's sub-committee for the Interior and Insular Affairs hearings succeeded in placing monies in the FY 1974 Budget for its planning and construction. A long series of negotiations, successes and setbacks preceded the above positive action. The present IHS Hospital was completed in 1926; in 1948, IHS began planning for its replacement which was needed because of its then lack of space and general state of antiquity. In 1967, the U.S. Congress appropriated planning funds for the proposed facility for which construction was to begun in 1969. The appropriation was stricken from the budget and subsequently re-budgeted for FY 1974 only to be eliminated once again. During FY 1973, assistance from the State's Congressmen was enlisted and was followed by the committee action mentioned earlier. Expressing its support for the construction, the Tribal Council, on April 11, 1973, passed Resolution CHO

89-73: A Resolution Requesting the Congress of the United States to Appropriate Monies for the Construction of a Health Facility on the Choctaw Reservation.

Planning by the BIA, IHS, tribe, executive architect, local architect, and the project construction manager was well underway by the fall of 1973. To be administered by the Facilities Engineering and Construction Administration of HEW during the construction period, the project is funded for $4.3 million. Upon completion of the Hospital, the tribe will assume the responsibility for its operation and will employ all personnel except physicians who will be employed and paid by HEW.

Choctaw-State Government

While no monetary aid was received from the State of Mississippi in FY 1973, several significant landmarks regarding political recognition of the tribe were established. The historic appearance of the Governor at the 1972 and again at the 1973 Choctaw Indian Fair opened the way for additional progress in the development of the relationship between the tribe and the State. The Office of the Governor made public its recognition of the Mississippi Band of Choctaws and the Reservation as a bona fide public agency. Concurrent with this new public recognition, the Mississippi Employment Service and the U.S. Department of Labor allocated monies directly to the tribe to be expended for programs in the five counties in which Mississippi Choctaws live and work--Neshoba, Leake, Newton, Jones, Winston, and Kemper. Normally such monetary expenditures cannot cross county lines but must be applied to the workers in the county to which it is allotted.

Tourism planning was limited in FY 1973 to several exploratory projects designed to develop programs which would make judicious use of valuable

tribal resources; however, more extensive plans are on tap for FY 1974, see Choctaw Forecast, p. 57.

The tribe and various state agencies began to build a heretofore unknown rapport with one another and the results have thus far been gratifying. Problems continue to be noted in some areas of interchange between the tribe and state agencies; however, negotiation and cooperation will help promote the development of better relationships. Establishment of a GED, General Education Development, testing center as a service for the increasing number of adult Choctaws who had completed other requirements for certification but who had to travel to cities as far as 50 to 75 miles away to take their qualifying examinations was hindered by a lack of service delivery coordination between the two interested organizations. The question of control of the proposed testing center contributed to the problem. After repeated attempts at assuring the location of the test center without success, the appeal was redirected to federal officials who established the test center at Choctaw Central High School; the BIA will administer the center through the Guidance Department. Of the more than 200 enrolled in ABE classes, 20 received their GED certificates in FY 1973.

Further evidence of Tribal/State cooperation is reflected in the increasing number of Mississippi Choctaws appointed to State boards, councils, and the like. In FY 1973, Choctaws held memberships in the Pearl River Basin Development Council and the State Comprehensive Health Planning Commission (this person is also a Tribal Council member); the Tribal Chairman was a member of the Mississippi Economic Council and the State Criminal Justice Improvement Board.

In addition, one tribal member served as liaison to the Governor's

Office for Education and Training. In a joint program, Mainstream, TWEPT, and Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees received employability screening and subsequent job-counseling and training services from BIA qualified counselors under DOL direction.

Choctaw-Local Government

The problem of alcohol abuse and its associated outcomes, the major encounter source between Choctaws and local government, has changed little in the last year. Bootlegging operations in Neshoba County continue despite a series of arrests in FY 1972 including 112 persons who operated in violation of State liquor laws as determined by the U.S. Treasury Department and the State Tax Commission, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. No convictions, however, were obtained. Similar arrests in FY 1973 numbered 44 while 79 searches were conducted.[1]

The Choctaw Legal Services Program mounted a concerted effort to reduce the sizeable number of cases which related to the misuse of antiseptic as an alcoholic beverage. Action on this issue was begun on the federal administrative level, in the State courts, and is contemplated in Federal District Court. Inquiries into the cause of death, the legality of manufacture, and the harmful effects of drinking antiseptics were undertaken. Local retailers were placed on legal notice of possible violations of the law in the sale and delivery of these products. Because this activity is so prevalent, additional effort will be required to curb this source of alcohol abuse.

An account of additional improvements in local personal justice for Choctaws can be found in the following Legal Services portion of this report.

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[1]Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, State Tax Commission.

Legal Services

The supportive position of the Choctaw Legal Services Program was responsible for the favorable disposition of certain legal cases, to be mentioned shortly, and the initiation of action on others. "Tribal Ordinance No. 5: An Ordinance Authorizing the Legal Services Program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to Represent and Advise in Legal Matters the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Its Officials, and Employees," passed on April 10, 1973, was another step toward self-government and the development of a sense of well-being for the Choctaw community. The document authorized the Choctaw Legal Services to furnish legal advice, written or oral legal opinions and legal representation as the Department of Law of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Among other legal operations for which this unit is responsible are the approval, as to form and legality, of Council Resolutions and Ordinances; codifying and publishing, in book form, Tribal Ordinances; writing and reviewing legal instruments; and collecting debts, taxes, and accounts due the Mississippi Band. Based upon the above dictate, Legal Services, although not staffed until November, 1972, handled more than 170 cases of which 70 per cent involved some form of alcohol abuse; completed in excess of 100 tax forms; handled numerous insurance, contract, and legislative matters; and represented the Choctaw people as a whole and individually in FY 1973.

Three of the above-mentioned cases bear further scrutiny. On January 17, 1973, a nineteen year-old Choctaw girl was arrested in Leake County after being picked up and fed "moonshine" by a white man. As she returned home, the County Police stopped her, firing a bullet through her windshield for no apparent reason. She was arrested for: having no driver's

license, driving while intoxicated, and possessing whiskey. After pleading guilty at a trial on February 3, 1973, her fine and court costs were set with no attending jail sentence. Her father offered to pay her fine on a bi-weekly basis, but was refused; the young lady was subsequently jailed to work off her debt. Under United States Law, Tate v. Short, 401 U.S. 395, and Frazier v. Jordan, 457 F. 2d 726 (5th Cir. 1972), it is a violation for a poor person to be imprisoned solely for his inability to pay a fine or court cost. A Writ of Habeas Corpus was subsequently denied in the Circuit Court of Leake County. Therefore, the attorney filed the Writ in Federal Court; the federal judge ordered the Sheriff to release the young lady.

A complaint was filed in Chancery Court, Neshoba County, on January 18, 1973, to force a landlord who had coerced his Choctaw tenants into staying on his property on the strength of a $170 debt owed to him. The court issued an injunction giving the Choctaw couple the right to move and take their property. A major victory, many others have suffered under similar bondage situations, this case helped educate other Choctaws as to their rights as citizens as well as gained their confidence as to the true purpose of the Legal Services. In another case, the prevalent problem of credit abuse and fraud was brought into focus. The Legal Services attorney, on March 2, 1973, filed two complaints in U.S. District Court against a Mississippi finance company for alleged violations of loan-making laws; in this case the finance company violated the Truth-in-Lending Act by (1) failing to disclose the sum of payments to be made under "Total Payments" and (2) failing to include credit life insurance and disability insurance charges as part of the "Finance Charge." The suit was settled through compromise by the two parties with the couple allowed to repay

a "reasonable" amount in monthly payments. Since this case, the Legal Service Program has been able to obtain equitable adjustment in all subsequent and similar cases.

Instances of police brutality in both Leake and Neshoba Counties have been markedly reduced in number with the advent of Legal Services; local officials have been notified that continued harrassment of the Choctaws will result in legal action. Aside from the assistance shown in the above examples, Legal Services seeks to educate and "stand by" as a true friend to Choctaws in their quest for self-determination.

The disposition of suits in U.S. District Court initiated on July 10 and August 21, 1973, respectively, is not known as of this date; the State has appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. These suits involved the tax liability and the legal stature of the Chata Development Company and the Choctaw Housing Authority and are discussed below. Issues concerning the gasoline tax exemption and tobacco permit for the cooperative store also remain unsettled.

On May 18, 1972, the United States Government filed a complaint for injunctive relief in U.S. District Court on behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and its instrumentalities, with the intent to enjoin the Mississippi State Tax Commission (or any other State agency) from assessing, collecting or attempting to collect taxes levied by the provisions of the Mississippi Sales Tax Law from the tribe or instrumentalities thereof.

This suit, U.S. v. State Tax Commission et al., resulted from a request for assistance by the Choctaw tribal government following:

1. The refusal of the State Tax Commission to recognize that Chata Development Company and the Choctaw Housing Authority are instrumen-

talities of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and that as such (under State law), they were entitled to exemption from State Sales Tax.

2. The refusal of the State Tax Commission to recognize the specific sales tax exemption provided for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians under State law.
3. The attempts by the State Tax Commission to coerce the Chata Development Company to pay taxes which the commission alleged were owed by the Company.

On June 21, 1972, the State Tax Commission filed its answer to the federal government's complaint for injunctive relief, asserting that the U.S. District Court did not have jurisdiction over this action and citing the McMillan v. Tate case. Moreover, it denied that the Chata Development Company and the Choctaw Housing Authority are instrumentalities of the tribe.

Following an initial hearing on June 30, 1972, Federal District Judge Harold Cox decided to handle presentation of the evidence in two segments with

1. The jurisdictional questions to be heard on July 10, 1972.
2. The factual status questions (whether the Chata Development Company and Choctaw Housing Authority are instrumentalities of the tribe; whether the State Tax Commission had sought to coerce payment of taxes from these entities, etc.) to be heard on August 21, 1972.

If the outcome of U.S. v. State Tax Commission et al. is not favorable for the tribe with respect to these questions, the U.S. will appeal on the tribe's behalf. The importance of this decision and the implications it has for the independent political growth of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw

Indians and the economic development of the Choctaw reservation are obvious.

Documents

- Tribal Ordinance No. 5: An Ordinance Authorizing the Legal Services Program of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to Represent and Advise in Legal Matters the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Its Officials, and Employees (April 10, 1973).
- Resolution CHO 141-72: A Resolution to Select Mr. Robert C. Benn to Fill the Position of Superintendent, Choctaw Agency (May 30, 1972).
- Resolution CHO 89-73: A Resolution Requesting the Congress of the United States to Appropriate Monies for the Construction of a Health Facility on the Choctaw Reservation (April 11, 1973).

Choctaw
Forecast

CHOCTAW FORECAST

The Choctaw Self-Determination program was originally outlined as a five-year effort based on the fact that firm foundations and lasting change cannot be effected in a shorter period of time. With the conclusion of the initial two-year period, as funded by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, decisive change is already noted on the Choctaw reservation; increased interest in education and improved health care are among other significant improvements. While the foundations of many on-going programs were established in the initial funding period, much work remains to be done and further effort will be necessary to achieve the goal of self-determination. Therefore, the tribe will seek a continuation of funding from OEO for a period of at least one more year; funds from the OEO Indian Desk will be administered through DHEW and ONAP for the above-mentioned time period.

While the goals and objectives of the continuing program will remain basically identical to those outlined in the original proposal, it is well that they be restated and/or refined to facilitate comprehension of the cooperative action necessary to attain these goals. Therefore, the tribe will seek to:

- o Improve tribal government effectiveness.
- o Finalize tribal government reorganization.
- o Improve personnel functions.
- o Continue planning and program development including that for industrial, tourism, and land-use resources.
- o Arrange for additional contracting of BIA programs.

Tribal Government--Effectiveness--As with any typical fledgling organization, the tribal government has known its periods of success and setback. In FY 1974, the major effort in the area of tribal government will be directed toward technical

and administrative assistance for the Tribal Chairman and Council in order to improve the effectiveness of tribal government. The employment of an administrative assistant and an office manager will also aid the Tribal Chairman in adopting improved management techniques.

Tribal Government--Reorganization--Completion and implementation of the revised Tribal Reorganization Plan by the "Aid to Tribal Government" staff under the direction of the Tribal Chairman is envisioned for FY 1974. Final adoption of the governmental framework and its accompanying documents is planned as is the formulation of additional organizational procedures necessary to administer tribal government.

Personnel Functions--Improvement--The improvement of tribal personnel recruitment, processing, salary designation, promotion, career development, job descriptions, and record-keeping procedures will bring significant change to this area of the tribal organization. The increasing number of employees needed to expedite the work of self-determination dictates the increased sophistication of the personnel function. The employment of a personnel officer knowledgeable in the identification of related deficiencies is vital to FY 1974 progress; concomitantly, he would develop policies and procedures to correct problem areas.

Planning and Program Development--Under the direction of the Tribal Chairman, planning and program development is expected to move forward in FY 1974. Concentration on manpower, community, economic, and organizational development; health care improvement; and educational enhancement is planned. The development and/or continuation of funding necessary to support reservation programs will be necessary; technical assistance in the administration of funds will also be essential. Program development specialists will coordinate future transition from existing program funds, generally federal in nature, to other sources as well as provide

assistance to tribal program areas such as industrial, tourism, and land-use/resources development. Vocational opportunities for Choctaws must also be explored concurrent with industry-seeking/resource-development. A proposed comprehensive manpower survey is expected to provide a valuable data base on which future planning can rest. Contracting for BIA services will also be guided by this staff.

Industrial Development--An Industrial Development Specialist funded by the EDA and responsible for the acquisition of industry for the Choctaw Industrial Park will be assisted by the "Aid to Tribal Government" staff. The industrial brochure will be revised and distributed in FY 1974; industrial training will be planned for and negotiations for funds for industrial development will highlight activities in this segment of overall reservation development.

Land-Use/Resource--Land-use and resource development will depend on staff assistance to consultants who are engaged in the formulation and completion of a comprehensive land-use assessment and reservation resources development plan. This major project is supported by a HUD 701 Planning grant; considerable input by tribal planners and program directors is expected to be invaluable to the consultants in assessing the needs and aspirations of programs which touch all facets of reservation life. Solicitation of and negotiation for allied studies as well as for the strengthening of funding source relationships are planned for FY 1974.

Tourism Development--The "Aid to Tribal Government" staff will provide technical and coordinated assistance to consultants to ensure the completion of comprehensive plans and feasibility studies designed to provide the groundwork for tourism development on the Choctaw reservation and ultimately on the Edinburg Reservoir. These consultants are also conducting the above-mentioned HUD 701 Land-Use Study; they expect to delineate the potential for tourism in conjunction to over-all reservation development. The establishment and maintenance of contracts with fund-

ing sources will be of prime importance.

Arts and Crafts Enterprise--The preservation and promotion of the authentic, timeless skills of Choctaw artesans plays an important part in the FY 1974 tribal work program. Programs and activities designed to reinforce and expand the development of Choctaw arts and crafts will be continued; with the receipt of anticipated monetary support, teaching activity directed toward the younger Choctaws will kindle or renew their interest in traditional arts and crafts production. The heritage of the Choctaw people will be highlighted as a result of this program.

Contracting--The "Aid to Tribal Government" staff will coordinate its efforts with and provide technical assistance to the BIA funded educational planner of the Choctaw Board of Education to complete plans for contracting for Choctaw Agency, BIA, educational programs. Priorities, resources, and time schedules for the assumption of contracts (at least two more in FY 1974) will be upppermost in this planning effort.